

UMR Retention Committee Meeting

MINUTES

September 22, 2005

8:15 AM

MEETING

CALLED BY

Harvest Collier

ATTENDEES

Harvest Collier, Kristi Schulte, Dana Barnard, Tammy Pratt, Stephanie Fitch, Gearoid MacSithigh, Laura Stoll, Emily Petersen, F. Scott Miller, Steve Watkins, Matt Goodwin, Carl Burns, Debbie Schatz (for Lynn Stichnote)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Gillman, Marcus Huggans, Kate Drowne, Jay Goff, Jennifer Bayless, Ronald Bieniek (Sabbatical), Meg Brady, Jeff Cawlfeld, Fathi Finaish, Greg Gelles, Nancy Hubing, Mary Ellen Kirgan, Robert Whites

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 9/8/05 committee meeting with corrective changes to the meeting attendee list and one word substitution 'involving' for 'inviting' in the Agenda Topics section under "Proposed Pilot Program: Committee members comments"

Agenda Topics

I. Pilot Program for Assisting Students – Update

Harvest Collier reported that he had held meetings with UMR Curators Distinguished Teaching Professors and Deans Teaching Scholars to gain their insight on how addressing the needs of academically deficient/probation students could best be done. They were very supportive of the need to provide a beneficial resource. The Deans Teaching Scholars offered to assist as practical as possible in the implementation of the campus resource.

Collier related that Amy Gillman was pursuing the identification of UMR students that may potentially serve as peer mentors to support a pilot implementation. Collier related that in a discussion with the academic deans, there was strong support from them for providing a resource for academically deficient students.

Laura Stoll has provided a list of students that currently have deficient or probation status, but are currently enrolled at UMR. Students from this list may be invited to participate in the pilot implementation.

Carl Burns noted that it may be too ambitious to consider implementing the pilot this semester without first providing the appropriate training for the peer student mentors that would be invited to participate in the project.

II. Assessment of Academic Advising

The committee participated in a general discussion on the characteristics of an advising program assessment strategy in order to arrive at the charge for an assessment advising subcommittee. Assessment issues discussed included student input, faculty/advisor input, level of student (including freshman, transfer and graduate students) to target, and desired outcomes of an assessment survey.

The discussion generally supported that the new subcommittee charge should include the development of a general survey that would inform UMR's Advising Program of the important issues from student and advisor perspectives.

III. Advising Subcommittee

Stephanie Fitch, F. Scott Miller, Gearoid MacSithigh and Carl Burns volunteered to serve on the Advising Subcommittee.

IV. Discussion of the Need for an Advising Course

The committee briefly discussed the need for a comprehensive course for UMR advisors that provides the foundational information needed to prepare advisors to meet the advising needs of UMR students. There was consensus that the course should be developed and made available to the campus.

Collier noted that the Retention Committee's development of the advising evaluation tool and the advising course should be presented to the Academic Council for its endorsement.

V. Discussion of Academic Dishonesty

The committee briefly discussed academic dishonesty and the impact it has on student retention at UMR. There was no apparent quantitative knowledge among committee members of the status of academic dishonesty on the UMR campus. Collier suggested that the committee come to the next meeting expecting to discuss this issue and to bring any knowledge contributions desired to aid the discussion and determine the role the committee should undertake.

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2005, 8:15 a.m.

APPENDIX

Resource References

Advising Program Evaluation:

<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu/AssessmentInst/index.htm>